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Keep this folder in your kitchen and refer to it often.

Other folders on care of household equipment available from the United States Department of Agriculture—

How to make your refrigerator last longer.

How to make your ironing equipment last longer.

How to make your gas or electric range last longer.

Take care of household rubber.

Prepared by

BUREAU OF HOME ECONOMICS

Agricultural Research Administration

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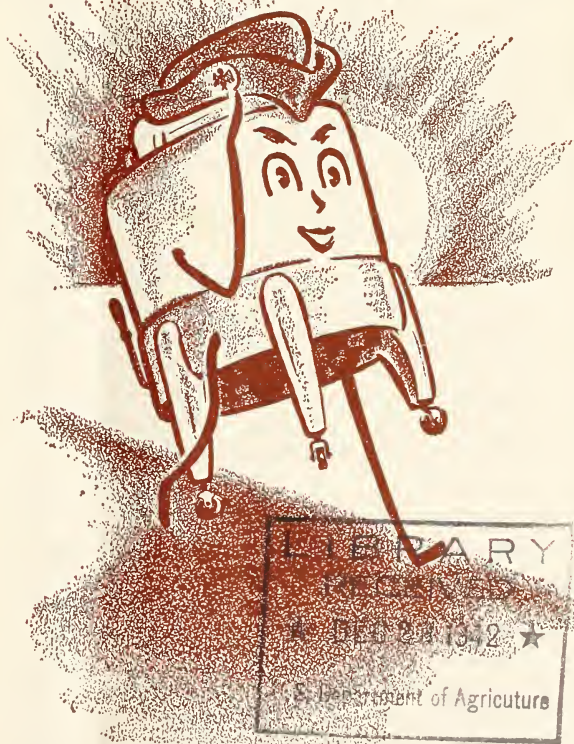
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How to make your WASHING MACHINE last longer



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U. S. GOVERNMENT





It's up to you Mr.

To win the war is our first task. The metals, facilities, labor, that were making washing machines and other household articles are now producing tanks, planes. That's where they are needed most.

Be sure you are using the right voltage for your machine. If you move, ask the public utility company whether the current in your new locality is alternating or direct and the number of cycles. The name plate on the washer motor states the kind of current it uses.

Tighten and Oil

To make your machine work well and last long, make a periodic check-up to see that all bolts and screws in the frame are tight. In many machines parts of the motor and gears are permanently lubricated at the factory and need no further attention. In others, lubrication must be periodically taken care of by the homemaker.

The manufacturer's directions usually tell how much to oil the machine for use once a week. If you wash oftener you may need to oil more frequently. Learn from your manufacturer's directions when, where, and how much to oil and what kind of oil to use. Too much or the wrong kind of oil is just as harmful as too little oil.

Castors need frequent oiling because they get wet and are in danger of rusting.

Take care not to spill oil on any rubber parts because oil softens and ruins rubber. If oil gets on rubber, remove it immediately with soap and water; then rinse in clear water and dry with a soft cloth. If the machine tips and spills oil from inside the mechanism, have a serviceman check the machine and replace spilled oil if necessary.

Watch for Wear and Tear

Protect your machine against bangs, bumps, and jerks that may injure the motor, dent the metal, or chip the finish of the tub.

At least once each year have a serviceman check your machine. Usually you save by repairing or replacing worn parts before they give out entirely.

WHEN YOU WASH

Different types of washing machines operate differently. Models vary, too. With the automatic washer follow to the letter the directions for your particular model.

The following directions apply to washers that are not automatic.



keep it in order—u

... and Mrs. Homemaker!

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machine.



Get the Machine on the Job

Before you start washing get the machine ready. See that it stands level and steady at a comfortable height. Some machines have casters that lock or caster cups to keep the machine from rolling.

If the washer has been standing in a cold place, the oil or grease in an electric or engine-driven machine may be too stiff to lubricate the mechanism as it runs. In that case, bring the machine into a warm room for a few hours, or let the tub stand full of warm water for an hour before you start washing. Never pour hot water into a very cold porcelain enamel tub. Sudden changes in temperature may crack porcelain enamel.

Fill the Tub

Put in enough water to reach the line marked on the inside of the tub or washing mechanism after the clothes are in. Experience will guide you as to the right amount. Too much water may strain the motor or run down the center shaft into the oil and gear case and make trouble that requires a repairman. Too little does a poor washing job.

chine. To disconnect, grasp the plug, not the cord. Keep outlet in good repair. Keep cord clean, dry—away from sun, heat, and oil—never roll the washer over it. Repair cord or plug as soon as a broken or worn place shows.

If your washer blows a fuse, replace with a 15-ampere fuse. Too large a fuse may permit the motor to be injured or burned out before the fuse blows.

Measure the Load

Your machine is designed to wash a definite load. Weigh the clothes or put in only the number the directions advise. Too many will not wash clean and, in an electric machine, may strain the motor or cause the fuse to blow.

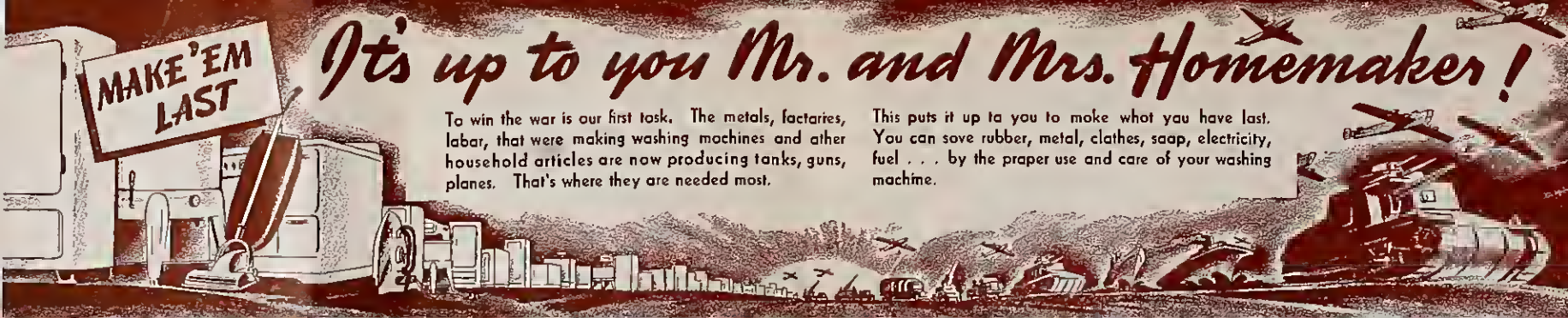
Wash by the Clock

In too long washing, dirt from the water goes back into the clothes. Too short washing leaves them dirty. Allow very short washing for wool to avoid shrinkage, 2 to 3 minutes . . . for silk or synthetics, 3 to 5 . . . slightly soiled cotton and linen, 5 to 10 . . . very soiled cotton, 10 to 15 minutes. If clothes are not clean in 15 minutes they need another washing in clean suds.

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e it without waste





MAKE 'EM
LAST

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To win the war is our first task. The metals, factories, labor, that were making washing machines and other household articles are now producing tanks, guns, planes. That's where they are needed most.

This puts it up to you to make what you have last. You can save rubber, metal, clothes, soap, electricity, fuel . . . by the proper use and care of your washing machine.

MAKE YOUR WASHING MACHINE LAST LONGER

These simple rules help to make your washing machine last and give best service.

- ★ Know your washing machine. Study the manufacturer's directions to get the maximum service from your machine and make it last.
- ★ Wash the right clothes load for your machine . . . don't overload it and strain the motor or blow a fuse.
- ★ Keep drains clear of lint, surfaces clean and dry.
- ★ Take special care of all rubber parts, drain hose, keep rubber free of oil.
- ★ Keep moving parts properly oiled. Keep bolts and screws tight.
- ★ Have regular check-overs . . . save cost and trouble you might avoid.

Know your Machine

Whether your machine is old or new, run by hand, electricity or gasoline, the first step toward keeping it in condition is to read the directions that came with it. If you have lost them, write the manufacturer for another copy. Even if you have used the machine many times, reread the directions to be sure you have overlooked no point that may save the machine and give best washing results.

Check the Current

Be sure you are using the right voltage for your machine. If you move, ask the public utility company whether the current in your new locality is alternating or direct and the number of cycles. The name plate on the washer motor states the kind of current it uses.

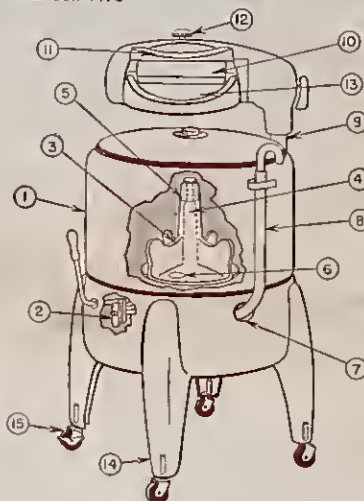
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Casters need frequent oiling because they get wet and are in danger of rusting.

WRINGER TYPE



The parts on your washing machine may not be exactly like those shown in these drawings. If you cannot locate them on your machine, check with your serviceman.

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Tub. | 7. Drain (may have hose and pump). | 13. Wringer drainboard. |
| 2. Motor. | 8. Hose. | 14. Adjustable legs. |
| 3. One type of washing mechanism. | 9. Wringer shaft. | 15. Casters (with locking device or cup to prevent rolling). |
| 4. Washing mechanism shaft. | 10. Wringers rolls. | 16. Drying compartment. |
| 5. Water line. | 11. Safety release for wringer rolls. | 17. Drier basket. |
| 6. Drain screen, trap, or strainer. | 12. Pressure adjustment of rollers. | 18. Drainboard. |

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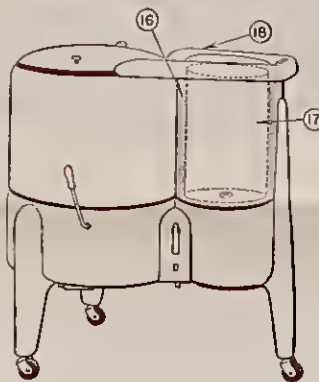
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SPINNER TYPE



Have the water just the right temperature for the fabrics being washed. For white linen and cotton use water too hot to hold your hands in. For colored linen and cotton use water comfortably hot to the hand; for rayon, silk, or wool, lukewarm water. Too hot water may ruin or shorten the life of delicate fabrics.

Get the Most From Soap

To get full cleaning power of soap, use just enough and dissolve it thoroughly. Mild soap is best for ordinary washing; stronger soap, for very dirty or greasy clothes. Strong soap or chemicals are hard on both fabrics and washer.

Soap flakes, chips, beads, and powder save time by dissolving quickly in water, but bar soap, shaved or grated and then made into a soap jelly with a little boiling water, may be cheaper. Whisk the water about as the soap goes in, to dissolve it completely before the clothes go in. This prevents soap spots on clothes. Use just enough soap to make suds about 2 inches thick. Too much or too little soap does not wash satisfactorily. If the suds thin out in washing, more soap may be added.

Plug for Safety

For safety with an electric washer, stand on a dry floor and have dry hands when you connect the plug. Connect to an appliance outlet or to a porcelain socket provided for the machine. To disconnect, grasp the plug, not the cord. Keep outlet in good repair. Keep cord clean, dry—away from sun, heat, and oil—never roll the washer over it. Repair cord or plug as soon as a broken or worn place shows.

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keep it in order—use it without waste



WHEN YOU WRING OR SPIN DRY

Before every washing, test the safety-pressure release on the wringer to be sure it is working. Keep your hands away from the wringer as clothes are going through. Flip an end of the piece onto the moving roller and let the wringer carry it through. Watch the wringer as each piece starts through to be sure it does not wrap around the roll.

Pressure Pointers

Wringers on some machines have self-adjusting rollers that automatically set to the right pressure. Others need to be set according to the thickness of the clothes. Too much pressure strains clothes, wringer, and motor. Too little pressure does not wring the clothes dry enough. Too heavy a load for the wringer may lock the rolls and even strip gears.

Protect wringer and clothes, and prevent wrinkles by running pieces through the wringer in smooth folds instead of lumps. Save rubber rollers and clothes by folding buckles, zippers, and buttons inside the cloth.

Go Easy on the Drier

Too much vibration is hard on the centrifugal drier. To cut down vibration pack the clothes a few at a time into the drier so that the weight is even all around.

AFTER-WASHING CARE

The moment you finish wringing, release the pressure on the wringer rollers to save the rubber. Flat spots on rollers come from leaving rolls pressed together.

After every wash, clean and dry the rollers. If they are easy to remove, take them out, wash in warm soapy water, rinse in clear water, wipe dry, and replace. If the rollers do not come out easily, wash, rinse, and dry them in place. Take off any stains with a cloth dipped in dry-cleaning fluid.

Flush the Drain

Remove all lint from the drain screen. If tub has a drain trap or strainer, remove, clean, and replace it. Flush the drain with clear water.

To save the rubber be sure all water is out of the hose.

Clean the Tub Inside and Out

When the washing is done, drain out the water and remove the washing mechanism, if it can be taken out. Wash it inside and out, rinse and wipe dry to prevent discoloring or corroding. With warm soapy water, wash the inside of the tub, including the shaft of the washing machine.

Rub stubborn spots with fine scouring powder. If green verdigris collects on a copper tub, rub it off with a paste of soap and household ammonia.

Wash outside of tub with soap and water, rinse, and dry. If the finish is synthetic enamel, wax it every few months to save the finish.

Clean wood and metal parts of the frame with soap and water, and wax to protect them.

Open for Air

Wipe all parts dry, leave the drain valve open to air and dry. All parts except the washing mechanism go back in place ready for the next wash. Place washing mechanism in tub. Leave lid of tub slightly ajar.

Cover Against Dirt and Damp

After the machine is dry cover it. You can buy or make a dustproof cover that slips over the entire machine. At least have a cover for the wringer to protect the rubber. Covers of waterproof cloth are best for machines kept on open porches or in other exposed places.